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"WE are the champions!" That's the cry that echoed around Loakes Park at 4.45 p.m. on Saturday when scores of jubilant fans invaded the pitch to salute their team. Wycombe Wanderers had just won the first ever Rothmans Isthmian League title — and they did it with a superb display of attacking football.

Thank you to Hendon, who beat Bishop's Stortford 1-0 on Thursday. Wanderers needed only to beat Leytonstone on Saturday to clinch the championship outright. They did it with a magnificent first half display, which although producing only one goal, set them up for the kill in the second. Victory was Wycombe's — and how they deserved it.

It hardly mattered that, in winning the title, they also achieved their 11th £40 bonus from the sponsors for a three clear goal triumph. The big prize, though, is the £1,000 for finishing top of the league. Treasurer Roger Lee wore a grin as wide as the pitch itself after

The game. Small wonder. Roger, who has been in the club since the black throughout the season, will receive a total of around £100. Added to the £1,000, the Blues' players will have a goal victory and they can also expect a handsome chunk of the sportsman's pool when it is won. What about the manager who steered his club to this success? He has been brought a new dimension to Wycombe football when he took over five years ago. In his very first season he had 10 runners up. Next year they won the Isthmian League and kept the title the following year, scoring 100 goals. The following year was a failure in comparison — the Blues finishing fourth. Now Lee has come back with a new record — a record of three championships in four years.

The manager has always maintained a low profile, even before the Amateur Cup. Few can argue. His team have kept a clean record, with only 11 goals over the season. 42 matches long whereas the cup lasts a mere six games. During those 42

played some wonderful football of a standard matching Third and Fourth Division soccer of the Football League — and sometimes better. Added to that, they have conceded only one booking (for shirt pulling) this term — a tribute to their clean football.

By STUART

But there is more to it than that. One must not forget the Wycombe fans — surely the best amateur football followers in the country. Two thousand of them turned out to cheer on their heroes, a remarkable figure considering the England — Scotland international was being screened live the same afternoon. Banners and scarves waving, they played a key part in Wycombe's success against Leytonstone on Saturday and throughout the season. The scenes after the game, with the fans hailing the champions in champagne on the pitch, and chairing their winning captain around the field, will long be remembered. It was the perfect

But before these moments of glory, the Blues had to get down to the task in hand of beating Leytonstone. They had already won 2-1 away the previous Wednesday, the two sides fielding almost the same teams, Leytonstone changing the substitute.

In the 19th Wycombe have struggled in these "all or nothing" encounters, notably in cup games. I, for one, expected the Blues to show some kind of nerves, but apart from some hurried finishing, their football was ever so professional. One had dared to expect. From

he first three minutes when they created three chances, there looked only one winner. Keith Searle was wide after just 60 seconds, then Tony Horseman couldn't get his full power behind a shot a minute later. After three minutes Roger Grant tricked Les Tilley on the flank but Searle was just unable to reach his cross. It seemed

well for Wycombe, who didn't have a chance to settle when he was sent back again. This time Horsemann broke away from the central defense of the Bulls and ran back but "Bogder," not to be outdone by the Bulls' defense, turned inside and sent the ball into the net.

At this stage, Wanderers were leading 2-0. The Bulls' defense and Terry Reardon were combining superbly in the middle of the defense, but they were not enough for the front runners. The passing was superb, the defense was solid and the Stones defended well. The Bulls' defense was still the nagging feeling that, for all their pressure, they were not going to be able to finish off their excellent raiders. In the 17th minute, Horsemann's corner was cleared to Dave Hollock who crossed again into the box. A defender kept his head and shoulders above the rest to send a header but the ball struck the crossbar and was cleared for another header.

When Horsemann, who at this stage was running about like a 15 year old, was sent back into the crossbar from six yards after

chance from Pritchard, things were beginning to look ominous for Wycombe. Leytonstone's defence was often stripped naked by the passing skills of the home side — and yet the numerous attacks weren't producing goals.

Then, with 26 minutes gone, Wycombe's pressure was rewarded. Once again the

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ea just three times — an example of the Blues' overall premacy.

However, when Horseman headed straight at Murphy from a couple of yards following a cardon free kick and Cliffield's 44th minute effort was kicked off the line by Tilley, Lycombe had only the one goal to shout for all their efforts.

Just half an hour time people can be so justifiably angry as it was on the night of the 1990 FA Cup final. It was a resounding yes to the FA's decision to allow the use of the ball in the early stages of the game. It was a resounding yes to the idea of a man to take its toll while the game was in progress. It was a resounding yes to the idea of a man to take its toll while the game was in progress. It was a resounding yes to the idea of a man to take its toll while the game was in progress.

minutes before they really began to click again.

As the crowd blazed the ball over the top of the volley.

Afterwards Searle, completely motionless, a headless man, sprang down at least two feet from the top of the wall. In the next minute, however, he was back on his feet. Pritchard showed him the way out, and he was starting and finishing a superb run. On half way, he slipped and fell, but he was up again. Horseman. Collecting the ball, Pritchard lighted a cigarette, and then he and the runner turned and centred again, Pritchard, far from finished with his cigarette, and he ran cleverly towards the top corner. Murphy, who had pulled off a superb run, was back on Wednesday, could not help the ball on its way on to the goal.

That was it. Leytonstone had the chance of pulling back two goals, but they were lost to a Pritchard and Terry with Wanderers. To the surprise of the crowd, the match was placed firmly with Wanderers. To the surprise of the crowd, the match moved into middle while the crowd was still between the middle and third.

It was fitting that Pritchard should be the last to play in the minute. Bixby, who had the game at right back, took a superb run, and he was back on the six yard box and the ball was at the near post, and he was back on the line but there was

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*Printed and published by the British Farm Press, Gordon Rd., High Wycombe, Bucks.
High Wycombe 1212. Westminster, Md. 21154. Registered as a newspaper at

BLUES' PRESENTATION NIGHT

LARRY PRITCHARD, Wycombe Wanderers' captain, will receive the Isthmian League trophy and championship flag tomorrow night (Wednesday) before the representative match between the Rothmans Isthmian League and the Hellenic League at Loakes Park (k.o. 7.30 p.m.). League secretary Ingram Whittingham will make the award.

As well as the trophy (won last year by Hendon for the first time), Wanderers will be receiving approximately £1,700 from the sponsors at the league's dinner in June. The players will also be presented with plaques at the dinner.

The match promises to be entertaining with several internationalists in the Athenian Home-

and also four Wycombe men.

keeper John Maskell (Wycombe Wanderers), manager Brian Lee (Wycombe Wanderers).

Hellenic League XI: J. Utteridge (Went Town), A. Chaloner (Oicester Town), W. Prior (Didcot Town), L. Cother (Went Town), C. Shephard (Moreton Town), R. White (Clenfield), M. Symms (Thatcham), D. Freeman (Clanston), D. Wise (Wantage Town), D. Hutton (Hungerford Town), N. Farr (Went Town), I. Richardson (Ch. Norton), T. Wiffen (Abingdon Town), M. King (Abingdon Town), B. Knight (Thame Town).

REYNOLDS: D. Bullock, R. Grant, L. Ward, T. Reardon, M. Holfield, A. Searns, K. Searle, S. Perrin (sub P. 81 mins).
REYNOLDS: L. Murphy; L. J. Charles, M. Smith, B. Hames; S. J. Roseman (sub G. Chippell 45 mins); D. Ishmael; W. Ratty, J. Brookes, J. Harvey.
Referee: P. Taylor (Greenford).
Start time: 1-0. **Goalscorers:** —
Score: — Holfield (26), Pritchard 2 (86).
Official paying attendance: 1,930.
Approximate total attendance: —